

## Sample Educational and Interpretive Programs and Products

### 11. Events – “Wilderness Weekend,” Shenandoah National Park

**Welcome to Shenandoah National Park and Wilderness Weekend!**



An Enduring Resource of Wilderness

**What is wilderness?**  
Personal perception of wilderness vary. In Shenandoah National Park, wilderness is defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964, which states that, "a wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain, who temporary uses the land for what is needed, leaving no痕迹for future generations.

**Why celebrate Shenandoah's wilderness?**  
On October 28, 1978, legislation was signed designating 89% of Shenandoah National Park as wilderness to be protected part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This act indicates a distinctive choice by the American people to permanently preserve wilderness in the face of increasing demands for private economic benefits for it and its resources from the complexities of our daily lives, down river waters, and habitats for endangered plants and animals.

**Wilderness Facts**

National Wilderness Preservation System  
Established - 1964 (through the Wilderness Act)  
Size (as of 2001) - 156,770,000 acres (approximately 4.4 % of U.S.A.)

**Shenandoah National Park's Wilderness Area**  
Designated - 1978  
Size at designation - 79,579 acres  
Additions - 1978  
Total size - 79,579 acres

**Largest wilderness area**  
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Alaska, 9.7 million acres

**Smallest wilderness area**  
St. Elmo Island National Wildlife Refuge, Florida, 5 acres

**States with no wilderness areas**  
Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska, Rhode Island

**Federal agencies that manage wilderness**  
National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife

**Federal agency that manages the most wilderness**  
National Park Service (42%)

For more information about wilderness, visit [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net)



Wilderness Weekend  
is sponsored by Shenandoah National Park  
and the Shenandoah National Park Association



**Wilderness Weekend**

**Celebrating 25 Years of Wilderness in Shenandoah National Park**

October 19 - 21, 2001

**Friday Oct. 19**

**The Wild Side of Shenandoah**  
8:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Big Meadows Amphitheater  
Shenandoah's wilderness areas is an evening in your own backyard! Join a ranger for a campfire to explore the significance of the 25th anniversary of Shenandoah's designated wilderness.

**Celebrate the Wild**  
8:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Loft Mountain Amphitheater  
Join a ranger around the campfire. Come celebrate Shenandoah's 25 years of wilderness and enjoy the sites of Big Pines, the largest wilderness area in Shenandoah.

**The Origin of Wilderness**  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Big Meadow Cabin auditorium  
Join park ranger Dr. Linda Loeffler during her personal presentation on the significance of Shenandoah's wilderness. Associated with Shenandoah National Park's 25th anniversary, "Barbecue for the Past" is a first-hand experience with the origins of wilderness in the East...the art of accomplishment and pride in the oldest Shenandoah cultural and cultural history. Barbecue will be available for lunch following after her talk.

**At Home in the Wild**  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Loft Mountain amphitheater - midpoint 4:30  
What can we learn from our wild lands? Celebrate Shenandoah's 25 years of wilderness by exploring the unique character of the old growth trees of the Oldfather, 2.2 miles.

**Shenandoah Apresherer**  
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Big Meadows Lodge dining room patio  
Visit your wilderness apparently learning about the significance of Shenandoah's wilderness resources.

**Your Wilderness**  
8:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., Skylift Gazebo Hall  
Join park ranger Dr. Roger Ceder of Roanoke, VA, as he brings the grassroots campaign to great over 100,000 acre wilderness protection to 25 percentage. As the Assistant Executive Director of the Wilderness Society from 2001 to 2005, Dr. Ceder helped anti-Government supporters for the establishment of wilderness in the East to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**Shenandoah's Wild Side**  
9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Matthews Arm amphitheater  
Come learn in a ranger led sleepover campfire about the people and events that led to the designation of Shenandoah's wilderness.

**Saturday Oct. 20**

**Tools of the Trade: Keeping Wilderness Trails Wild**  
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Big Meadows Visitor Center  
When you hike in Shenandoah, you're making the hard work that goes into maintaining the largest wilderness areas in Shenandoah, a diverse place to explore! Come learn how to keep trails in Shenandoah's wilderness areas in their natural state.

**Hikes: "Wild By Law"**  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Big Meadows Visitor Center  
Celebrate 25 years of wilderness in Shenandoah by tramping through the forest to see the changes that have been made to protect the natural habitat of the area.

**Junior Ranger Program at Loft Mountain**  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Loft Mountain Amphitheater  
Explore the wild side of Shenandoah National Park with a park ranger!

**A Walk On the Wild Side**  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Hobo Gap Overlook - mile 49.5  
The Blue Ridge Trail leads us into Shenandoah's wilderness. Come discover the ecology, beauty, and significance of Shenandoah's designated wilderness on this ruggedized hike (distance: 1 mile).

**Explore Your Wild Side**  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Big Meadows Visitor Center  
Celebrate 25 years of wilderness in Shenandoah by catching the documentary which highlights the stories of the strong voices who spoke up for wilderness protection in our country.

**Explore Your Wild Side**  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Matthews Arm amphitheater  
Join Shenandoah National Park Rangers on a hike overlooking the Big Blue Ridge. Come learn about the largest wilderness areas in Shenandoah, to discover just place to explore! Come learn how to keep trails in Shenandoah's wilderness areas in their natural state.

**Junior Ranger Program at Skyland**  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Skyland amphitheater  
Join a ranger to explore the wild side of Shenandoah National Park!

**Junior Ranger Program at Matthews Arm**  
10:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Matthews Arm amphitheater  
Join a ranger to explore the wild side of Shenandoah's 25th anniversary. Come learn about the significance of the 25th anniversary and what it means for the future of the park.

**Junior Ranger Program at Loft Mountain**  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Loft Mountain amphitheater  
Come learn to explore! Join a ranger to discover the many creatures that call Shenandoah's wilderness home.

**Wilderness Hike**  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Central Branch  
Join the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) on a hike in the Corbin Cabin (Hoboe Hollow) wilderness area to explore the historical history of Shenandoah's wilderness, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and The Appalachian Trail. Distance: Approximately 5 miles. Group size limit: Call 939-5489 for reservations in advance.

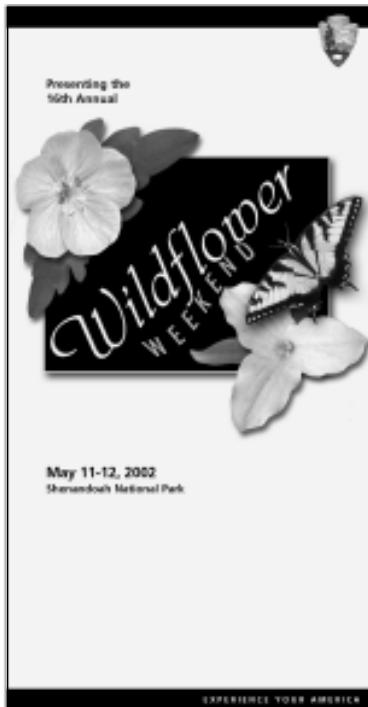
**Skills: "Wild By Law"**  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Big Blister Center cafeteria  
Celebrate 25 years of wilderness in Shenandoah by tramping through the forest to see the changes that have been made to protect the natural habitat of the area.

**The Nature of Wilderness**  
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Big Meadows Information Center  
Join a ranger to learn your wilderness knowledge and to discover the meaning of Shenandoah's 25-year-old wilderness.

**The Wilderness Way**  
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., North Branch  
Join Shenandoah's Wilderness Ranger team for a hike exploring the Harrison Market wilderness area for a closer look at wilderness and wilderness management in Shenandoah over the past 25 years. Distance: Approximately 3 miles. Group size limit: Call 939-5489 for reservations in advance.

**Walk On the Wild Side**  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Loft Mountain Amphitheater  
The Appalachian Trail crosses central Virginia through Shenandoah. It is a wilderness so strong on tradition. Celebrate 25 years of Shenandoah's wilderness on a ranger-led hike alongside the Appalachian Trail.

## 11. Events – “Wildflower Weekend,” Shenandoah National Park



May 11-12, 2002  
Shenandoah National Park

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

**The True Nature of Things – Uncommon Plants**  
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Status vs. nonnative—why is the park pulling in the welcome mat for some plants? What's wrong with a little Asian Honeysuckle or Tree of Heaven? Find out how exotic plants present challenges to resource management. Meet at Rydell Visitor Center (milepost 50).  
Mike Werner, Biological Resource Technician, Shenandoah National Park  
**Wildflowers at the Mill Prong**  
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Flowers tell of changing habitat as you hike across former meadows, along streams, and through stands of towering maple trees on this delightful trail leading to Devil's Den. Honeysuckle's a favorite among the wildflowers. Rapallo Camp. Sleep in places these words encourage. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. 4.1 miles. Total climb: about 579 ft. Meet at Mill Gap parking area (mile 52.8).  
Bob French-Sure, Park Ranger, New River Gorge National River  
**What's a Wildflower to You?**  
1:30 to 3 p.m.  
Find out with grueling wildlife, crowding by shrubs and grasses, picking by birds, and housing by the National Park Service, wildflowers are at a premium in the Big Meadow. Find out what's going on in this unusual weekend program. 1 mile. Meet in front of Rydell Visitor Center (milepost 51).  
Mike Mcelroy, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park  
**Bugs and Blooms in the Big Meadow**  
1:30 to 3 p.m. Children's program.  
See previous description.  
Mike French-Sure, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park  
**Lewis Mountain Stroll**  
1 to 5 p.m.  
It's amazing how many wildflowers you may see on a short hike scattered along the Appalachian Trail! Stretch your legs on this easy walk. Wear sturdy shoes. 9 miles. Meet at Lewis Mountain picnic area (mile 57.3).  
Mike Mcelroy, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park

**Sunday, May 12**

**Mystery Wildflower Hike**  
9:30 a.m. to noon.  
The Skyline Drive surface cuts some of the park's most uncommon plant life. What could it all be? This hike down a rocky ridge to the observation platforms at Miller Head (7,484 ft.) offers spellbinding views. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. 1.8 miles. Total climb: about 430 ft. Meet at Miller Head trailhead (foot Skyline Drive, run west-southwest to Skyline (mile 42.5); pass stable and keep to left when road forks; park in grass at top of hill).  
Mike Mcelroy, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park  
**Wildflower Detectives**  
9 to 11:30 a.m. Children's program.  
Through fun-filled activities, find out how flowers work and how they're connected in lots of things, including you! Meet in front of Rydell Visitor Center (milepost 51).  
Bob French-Sure, Park Ranger, New River Gorge National River

## Welcome to Shenandoah National Park and Wildflower Weekend

Saturday, May 11

Birds and Birds of Prey

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Wingspan sightings are at their peak numbers here in spring. Look and listen for them as you search for wildflowers. Bring the flat road on this walk to the sites of Peacock Meadow. Meet at Peacock parking area (mile 59.2), unmapped, east side of Skyline Drive. Limited parking. 2 miles. Total climb: about 400 ft.  
Chase Melching, Naturalist, Virginia Native Plant Society, Roanoke Blue Ridge Club

\*Appalachian Wildflower Folklore

9 to 10 a.m.

Learn the legends pertaining to individual remedies. Native plants have been used since time immemorial. Learn the stories behind their uses, names, and much more. Side programs: Meet at Blue Visitor Center (miles 50-51). And French-Sure, Park Ranger, New River Gorge National River

A Bear's Garden

9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This is a lovely hike through many species of native woodland flowers, descending the Appalachian Trail northeast up to Backbone Mountain. Great views near summit (3,620 ft.). Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. 3 miles. Total climb: about 400 ft. Meet at Lewis Mountain Picnic Area (mile 57.3).  
Mike Mcelroy, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park

Trillium Trail to Righters

10:15 to 12:30 p.m.

Hikes the Appalachian Trail through patches of Trillium and other wildflowers, in the ascent of Backbone Mountain (3,635 ft.) and a terrific view. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. 3 miles. Total climb: about 300 ft. Meet at parking area (mile 66.7).

Locked parking.

Ann Worcester, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park

\*Wildflower Identification for Beginners

10:30 a.m. to noon

11 wildflowers are visual acquaintances that you'd like to get to know better, this morning. Learn the basics of identification of some popular families and try out "memory" exercises using a field guide. Meet at Millet Gap parking area (mile 52.4) for an easy walk.

Zenia Clark, Education Specialist, Shenandoah National Park

\*Wildflowers in the Wilderness

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Celebrate solstices on this special day-hike into the park's designated Wilderness along the River Gap Trail. Examine the wilderness state while identifying flowers along this beautiful, rugged trail by streams with cascading waterfalls. Bring a rock in places. Wear sturdy shoes; bring lunch and water. 4 miles. Total climb: about 910 ft. Meet at Fisher's Gap Overlook (mile 49.4).

Zenia Clark, Education Specialist, Shenandoah National Park, Wendy Clark, Ranger, Shenandoah National Park

Bugs and Blooms in the Big Meadow

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children's program.

Using a hands-on approach and fun-filled activities, discover new plants and bugs rely on each other. Meet in front of Rydell Visitor Center (miles 51).  
Marlene Kieck, Park Ranger, Shenandoah National Park



## Meet Our Volunteers

**Diane Dinsauf** of Alleghany County is a retired teacher who has enjoyed hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing, and discovering wildflowers in Shenandoah National Park for the past 40 years. On one memorable visit a couple of years ago, he was pleased to witness an uncommon fly, White Cactus (Diplosoma glaucum), which had been seen in the park since 1949. He is a volunteer with The Nature Conservancy.

**Barrie Hollinger** of Rockingham County has led many Wildflower Workshops for over the years. An avid birder and wildflower enthusiast, she is a member of the Virginia Native Plant Society, is a field trip leader for the Rockingham Bird Club, and conducts bird surveys for the Smithsonian Institution. Throughout the past year, she has been living and breeding in Mexico.

**Jim Ellington** of Augusta County has enjoyed leading wildflower outings for 30 years. He is a retired English professor at Bridgewater College, and worked as a historian and seasonal naturalist for the National Park Service. Jim volunteers with The Nature Conservancy in Virginia, Montana, and the Virgin Islands. He was named "Volunteer of the Year" for 1999 by The Nature Conservancy's Virginia Chapter.

**Robyn Hoben** worked for several years as a senior naturalist at Shenandoah National Park and is now a science teacher in a middle school alternative education program in Frederick County. She and her rabbit, Timothy B., are volunteers in animal-oriented therapy in her community. Robyn excels at helping people connect with nature in a memorable way.

**Bobbi Morris** has worked seasonally for the interpretive division of Shenandoah National Park, and is now a language arts teacher in Warren County. She is a writing leader for the park's annual butterfly and bird counts. Bobbi makes searching for nature's best-dressed insects a learning adventure. Her enthusiasm for butterflies is contagious.

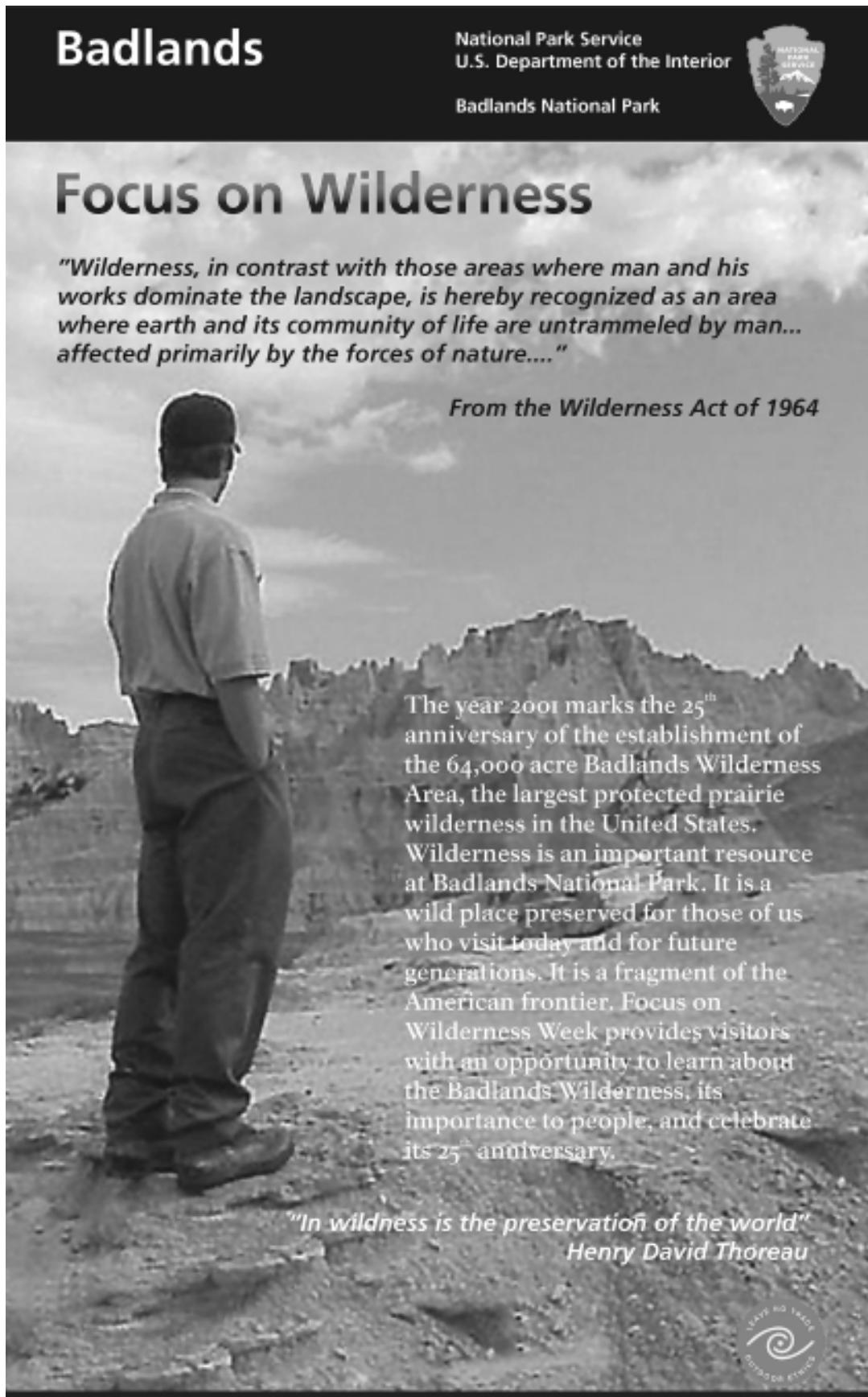
We would like to thank the staff at New River Gorge National River, West Virginia, for lending us Park Ranger Judi French-Dix for the weekend. Judi has been leading seasonal wildflower walks and led a nature park for 15 years, and for six years was a guide for Babcock State Park's annual Old Mill Wildflower Pilgrimage. She has developed checklists for flora of New River Gorge National River and lectures on wildflower biology and identification.



## Wildflower Weekend

is presented by Shenandoah National Park, the Shenandoah National Park Association, and Appalachian, the official park concessionaire.

12. Posters – “Focus on Wilderness,” Badlands National Park



## 12. Posters – “Leave No Trace Ethics and Skills,” Badlands National Park

**Badlands**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior

Badlands National Park

*“wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man... affected primarily by the forces of nature....”*

*From the Wilderness Act of 1964*

You are about to enter the largest protected prairie wilderness in the United States, the Badlands Wilderness Area. Here, you may experience a prairie day similar to one that people before you have for hundreds or perhaps thousands of years. Please treat this place with respect so that future generations may also enjoy what you will today. Always practice skills that will Leave No Trace of your visit.

### Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics and Skills

#### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Carry plenty of water. Temperatures can soar to well above 100 degrees. You should have at least one gallon of water per person per day. If you do find any water in the backcountry, it is not drinkable or filterable. The fine sediments will clog your water filter.
- Always make sure someone knows where you are and when you will return. The National Park Service will not search for you unless notified that you are missing. You are entering an area where you are unlikely to encounter other people.
- Fires are not permitted in Badlands National Park. Carry a lightweight camp stove.

#### Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established roads, trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from ponds and streams.
- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.

#### Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Deposit human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

#### Leave What You Find

- Leave fossils, rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Preserve the past: observe but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species...Horse users must use only certified weed-free feed.

#### Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health and alters natural behaviors.

#### Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and the quality of their experience.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.



12. Posters – “Renewal,” Shenandoah National Park



# Renewal

As the chill of winter gives way to the warmth of spring, nature embraces another season and the forest comes alive. In Shenandoah's Federally Designated Wilderness Areas, which are protected from development, this transformation is at its purest. Humans, though only visitors in wilderness areas, may enter to escape, to find solace... to be *renewed*.

**The Wilderness Act, 1964** —

*“...An area of wilderness shall further be defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition...”*

■ Approximately 4% of U.S. land is Federally Designated Wilderness.

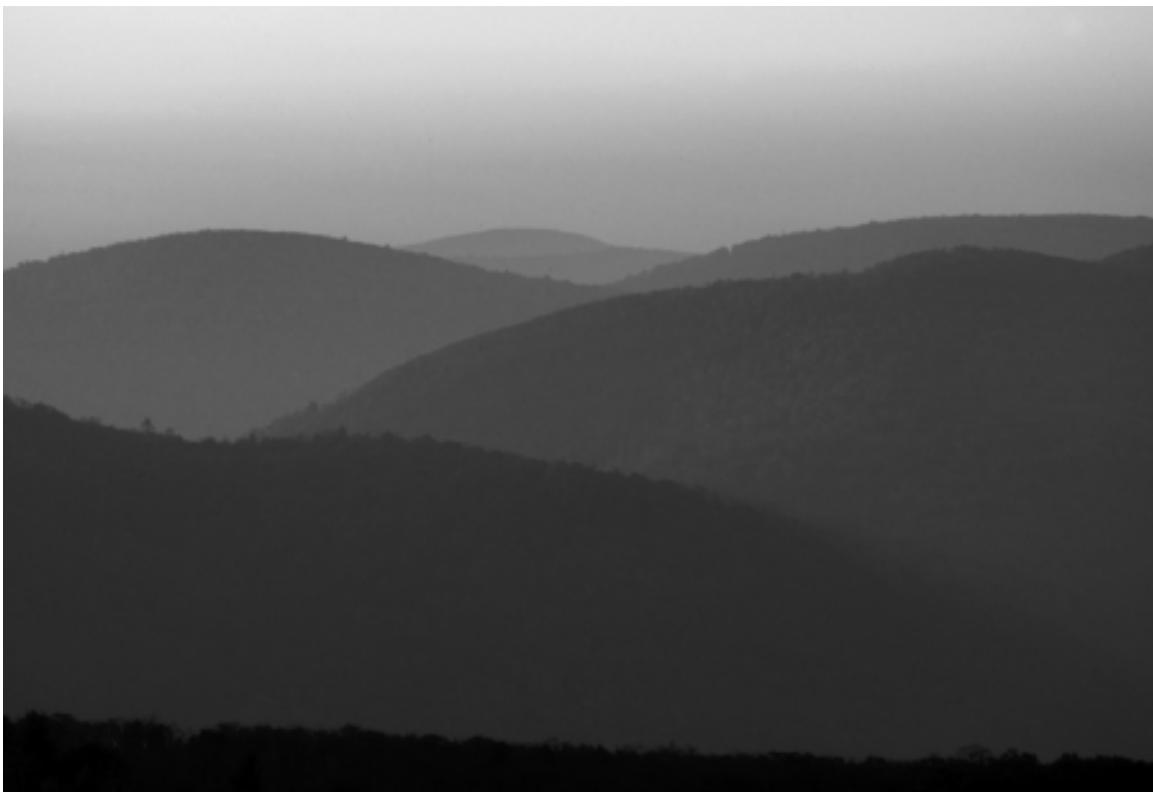
■ Approximately 40% of Shenandoah National Park is Federally Designated Wilderness.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Shenandoah National Park



**12. Posters – “Forever Wild,” Shenandoah National Park**



# Forever Wild

Shenandoah's Federally Designated Wilderness Areas are revered landscapes that preserve the heritage of America. Through careful management, Federal protection, and responsible use, they are enduring resources to be enjoyed by all generations...*forever*.

**The Wilderness Act, 1964**

*“...It is hereby established that a National Wilderness Preservation System is to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as ‘Wilderness Areas,’ and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner that will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment....”*

■ Approximately 4% of U.S. land is Federally Designated Wilderness.

■ Approximately 40% of Shenandoah National Park is Federally Designated Wilderness.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Shenandoah National Park

